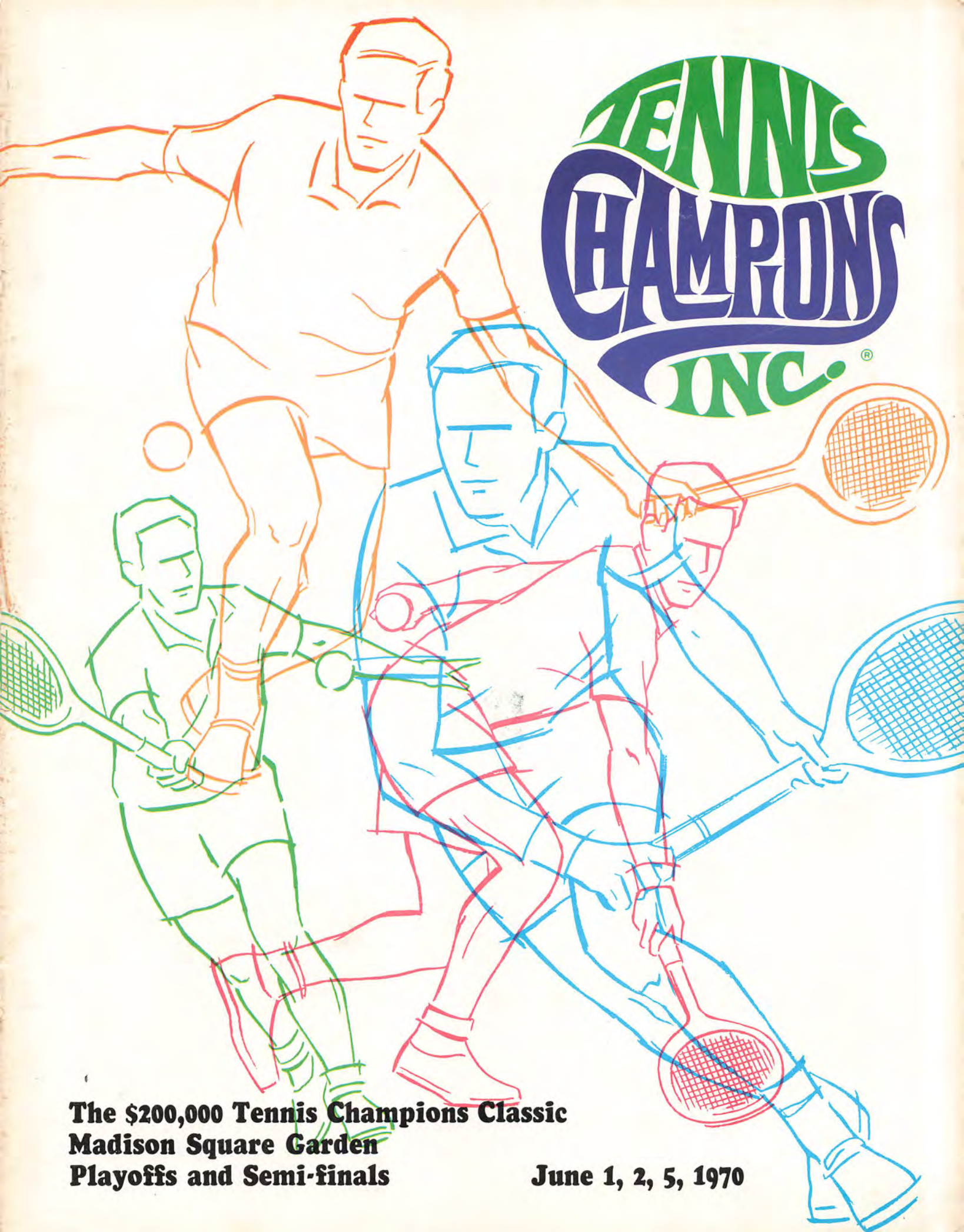
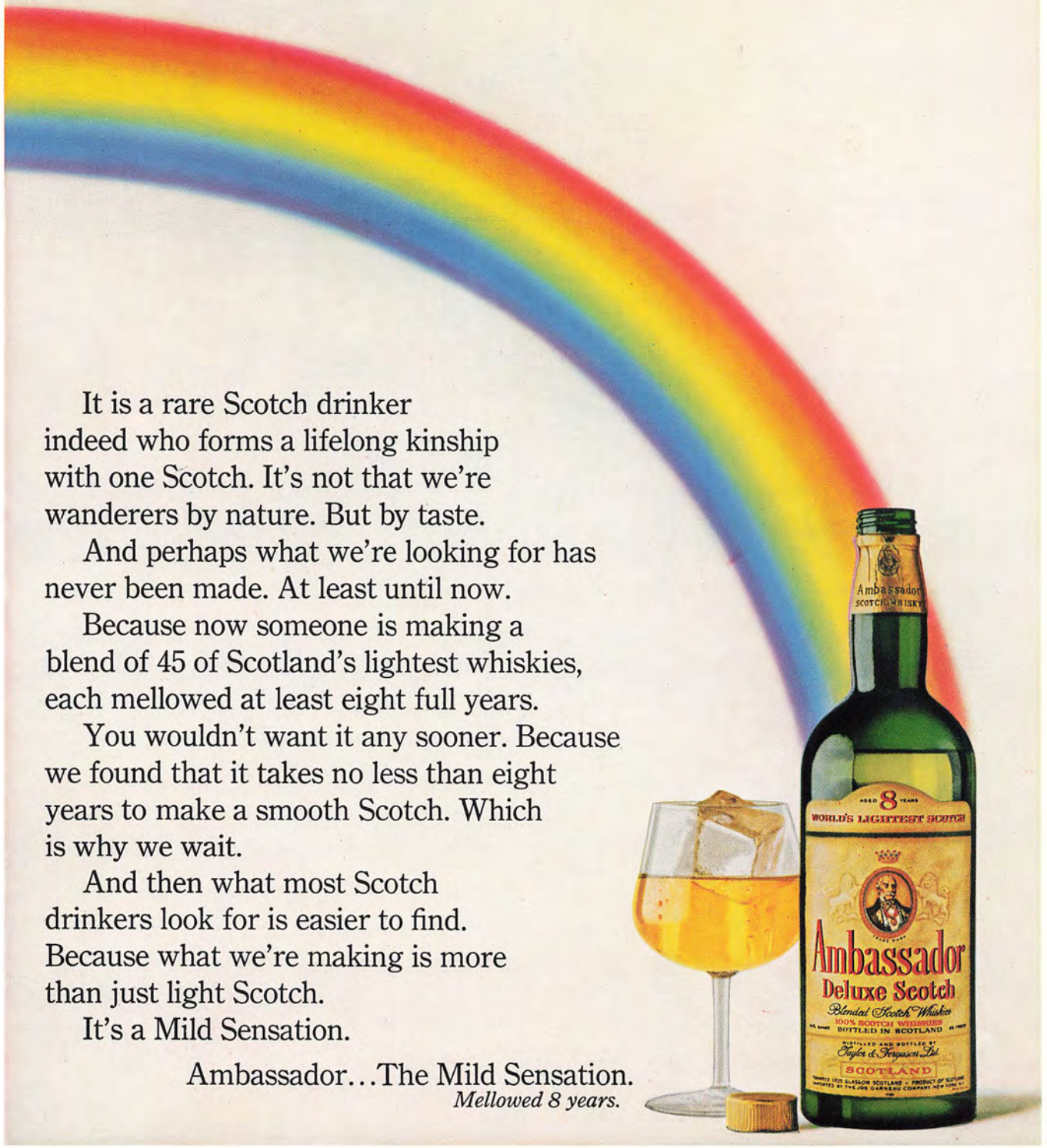


The $200,000 Tennis Champions Classic
Madison Square Garden
Playoffs and Semi-finals

June 1, 2, 5, 1970

A Mild Sensation is what most people look for and almost never find.



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Ambassador...The Mild Sensation.
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TENNIS CHAMPIONS, INC.

PRESENTS

THE $200,000 TENNIS CHAMPIONS CLASSIC

PLAYOFF AND SEMI-FINALS

AT

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

FEATURING

ROY EMERSON

PANCHO GONZALEZ

ROD LAVER

TOM OKKER

TONY ROCHE

KEN ROSEWALL

FRED STOLLE

June 1-2 and 5, 1970

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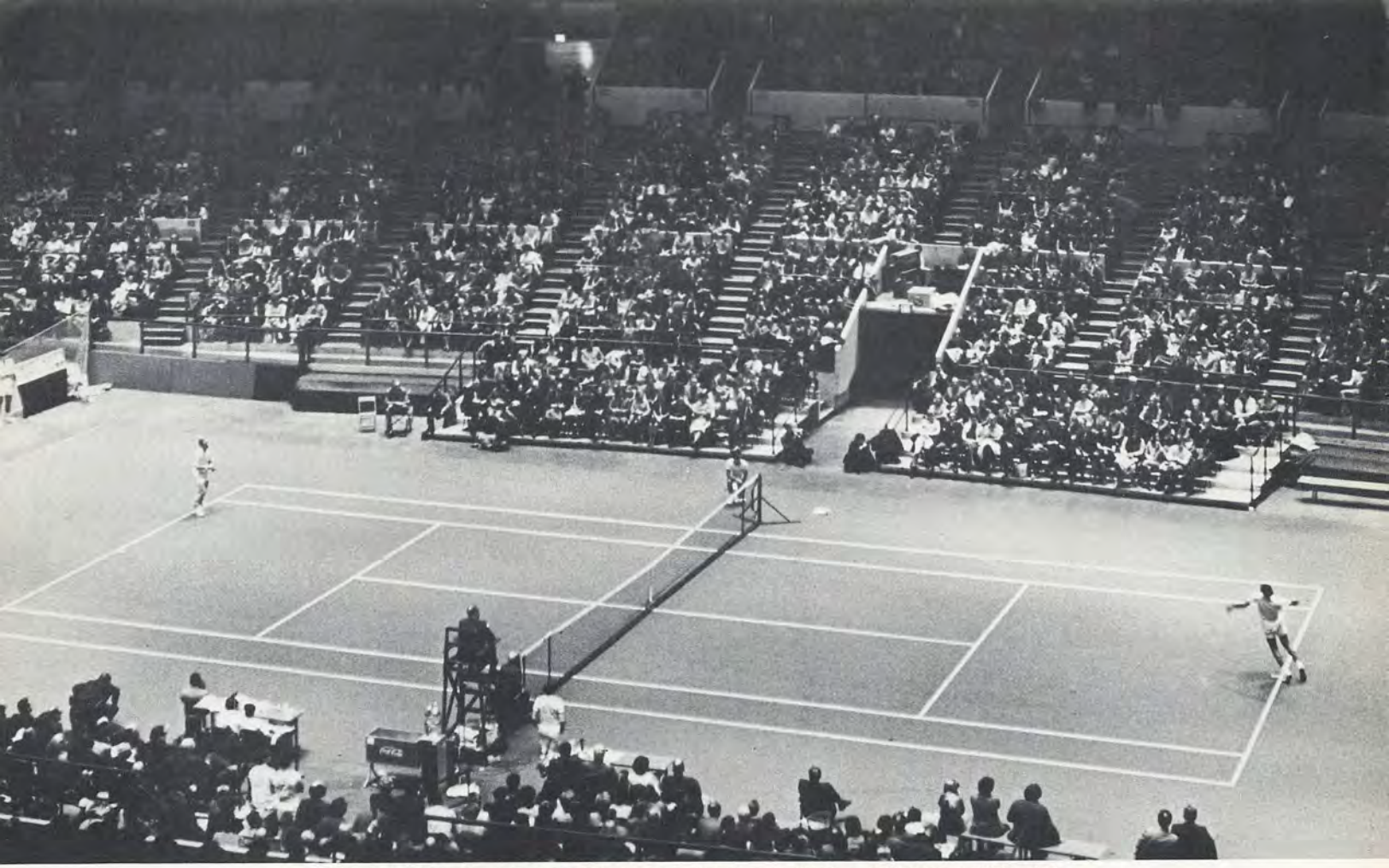


THE GARDEN IS JAMMED FOR THE CLASSIC INAUGURAL BETWEEN LAVER AND GONZALEZ. A CAPACITY CROWD OF 14,761 WAS ON HAND ON JANUARY 23, 1970.

Summary of the Tennis Classic Matches

The $200,000 Tennis Champions Classic, the richest event in the history of the sport, is a model of classic competition. The finest players in the world are invited to battle in a series of matches, man against man, for $10,000-winner-take-all. A man continues until beaten.

Upon conclusion of the individual head-to-head matches, the men with the best records compete in the playoffs. The semifinal matches are worth $25,000 each, and in the semifinals, for the first time, a loser gets money. The $25,000 stake is split evenly between each player – but the winners move on to the final where by far the largest reward ever offered in tennis awaits the winner.

In the final, there will be $50,000 at stake. The winner will get $35,000. The loser $15,000, only $1,000 less than the U.S. Championship was worth a year ago.

This great competition has been made possible through the whole-hearted cooperation of World Championship Tennis, Inc.

Following is the resume of Classic matches:

* * * * *

Pancho Gonzalez vs. Rod Laver

January 23, 1970 New York City

Gonzalez the winner, 7-5, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2

To launch the $200,000 Classic, it was obvious that Rod Laver, the world's No. 1 player, would be one contestant. And it was equally obvious that Pancho Gonzalez, considered by some experts as the greatest player of all time, and by others as at least among the five greatest of all time, would be the proper opponent.

Laver, coming off his great year of 1969, was the choice to rout the 41-year-old Pancho. For Laver, the $10,000 reward would start him off well in his attempt to surpass the $123,000 he had won in 1969.

But Pancho the incredible saw in the Classic format an opportunity to husband his strength and stamina without concern over preliminary rounds as in normal tournament play. He came into the match convinced that if he could stay with Laver early, he would beat him late – a strange outlook of a man a decade younger than his foe.

Yet that was the way it turned out. Pancho won the first set 7-5, but Laver battled back from that shock in two bristling sets, where the slightest error could prove fatal. Laver, playing with all the skill of his Grand Slam triumph, forced Pancho into errors to take the sets 6-3 and 6-2, The red headed terror was in command, it seemed, and it was only a matter of time before Gonzales went down in fuming rage.

But after the third set rest period, Pancho came back with the ice and fire of the true professional great. He fought Laver with a cool and, for Pancho, almost icily detached determination. He squared the match by winning the fourth set, 6-3.

Surely, now, the 41-year-old would not be able to withstand Laver's 31-year-old speed and power in a fifth set. That would be axiomatic for any 41-year-old – except the likes of Pancho. The fifth and final set reached its peak when the two players, standing perhaps only 15 feet apart, traded volleys like middleweight boxers. Gonzalez took all that Laver could throw, and it was Laver whose game collapsed. Rod's overhand smash deserted him, and Pancho, with more than 20 years of experience to call upon, tantalized the great Aussie with exquisite lobs that in cumulative effect completely frustrated Laver. Gonzalez won going away, to post his 7-5, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory, and the 14,761 fans – the second largest crowd in U.S. indoor tennis history – went wild with delight.

* * * * *

Pancho Gonzalez vs. John Newcombe
January 31, 1970 Detroit, Mich.
Gonzalez the winner, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2

Ranked right behind Laver as the world's best tennis players in 1969 were Tony Roche and John Newcombe, also of Australia. It was Newcombe who took the court in the second Classic match to oppose Gonzalez, who was still exulting over his memorable triumph in New York.

But Pancho's exultation was a private thing. He knew there were those who said his conquest of Laver was a fluke, the flash-in-the-pan sort of thing an old man can come up with now and then. Against the young Newcombe, the years would surely have to tell, and they knew that Newcombe was a master of the soft shot, the delicate placement that would make Pancho run and run and run and finally drop from exhaustion.

Pancho saw it that way too, and planned his game accordingly. He would make the younger man keep moving forward and thus nullify those soft tactics. And he would go after him from the outset with all the power of the famed old serve. Against Laver, he had had to call upon all the technique of all the years. Against Newcombe he would go straight to the attack, to the jugular.

Newcombe hardly know what hit him. The young Australian with the imposing credentials of Forest Hills and Wimbledon and over $52,000 in money won in 1969 was blown off the court in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

It was a shocking loss for Newcombe, but he refused to alibi it by mentioning that he had flown straight through from Australia, arriving only two days before the match. "I was never really in it," he said with almost disbelief. "Every time I tried something, it just didn't work."

* * * * *

Pancho Gonzalez vs. Roy Emerson
February 15, 1970 Miami, Fla.
Emerson the winner, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3

Roy Emerson – and you could look it up – compiled the greatest record of anyone in amateur tennis. The Australian won every major tournament at least twice, and was the Aussie king seven times. He turned pro late – at age 31 – and after only a fair rookie year managed to collect $62,000 in open and pro events in 1969. He was next man up for the Classic, and there were many who thought that this might be an even easier match for Gonzalez than Newcombe had proved. Emerson thought otherwise.

Roy arrived in Miami more than a week before the match, and, almost like a prize fighter, worked over every aspect of his plan – and that plan worked to perfection.

It was a stunning performance. The great Pancho, despite the long rest after the Newcombe triumph, came up empty, and could do nothing. Emerson raced through a straight set victory 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

* * * * *

Roy Emerson vs. Ken Rosewall
March 1, 1970 Los Angeles, Calif.
Emerson the winner, 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4

The fourth match of the Classic paired Emerson with a fellow Aussie, the diminutive Ken Rosewall, of whom many say he has the finest technique of all current players. Rosewall, because of his slight stature, has had to rely on tactics to offset the brute strength of his rivals – and it was Rosewall who at one time was the undisputed king of the pros in the period between Gonzalez and the emergence of Laver.

But Emerson, showing signs of regaining the confidence he had lost after joining the pros, now stated flatly that he would defeat Rosewall, and cited the fact that he had beaten Ken in two meetings prior to the Classic.

The Match was one of power vs. placement tennis, and Emerson's power made the difference. Twice the men went to 5-all and the tie-break system. And twice Emerson prevailed. He dropped the second set, but won the match 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

* * * * *

Roy Emerson vs. Andres Gimeno
April 5, 1970 Brisbane, Australia
Emerson the winner, 9-7, 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

Emerson came home to Austrailia, to the city which he knew so well as a child. And in the fifth match of the Classic, he found himself in a veritable war. His opponent was the superb Spaniard Andres Gimeno, who had whipped him in the quarterfinals of the Dunlop tournament only two weeks before. But this was the Classic, and another win would give Emerson $30,000 for the series and move him to the top spot among money winners in pro tennis.

Gimeno proved once more why he is regarded as the most dangerous of opponents. With his delicate touch, his ballet-like maneuvers, he confused and exasperated Emerson after losing an agonizing first set. In the humid heat, Andres rose to his peak, and captured the next two sets 6-1, 6-4, bringing Emerson to the brink. But Roy, taking full advantage of his rest between the third and fourth sets, came out and evened the match with a 6-3 margin, then raced through the fifth and decisive set in 18 minutes at 6-2.

* * * * *

Roy Emerson vs. Fred Stolle
May 1, 1970 Dayton, Ohio
Stolle the winner, 7-5, 7-5, 6-4

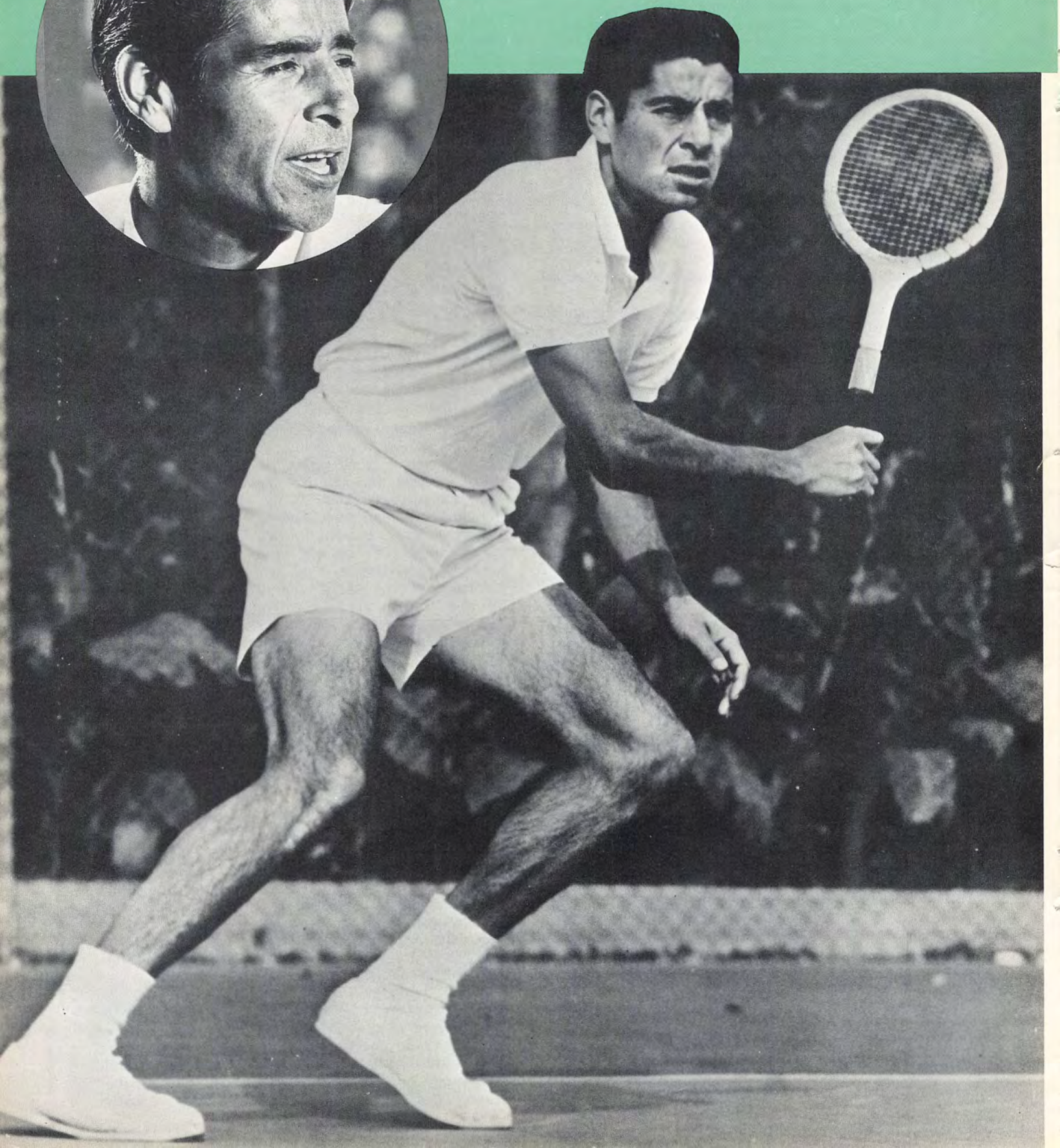
Fred Stolle, tallest of the pros at 6-4, and one of the quitest, ended Emerson's Classic run with a clear cut victory. Always at home on a fast surface, Stolle held Emerson in check throughout the one hour and 33 minute struggle.

Roy did not go down without a fight. Both of the first two sets went into sudden death tie break games and both went to Stolle.

In the third set, Emerson made his move to get back in the match. He broke Fred's service in the fourth game to grab a 3-1 lead, and the door was open just wide enough for Roy to make another grab at his fourth $10,000 – but Stolle slammed it shut. Fred broke Emerson's service, squared the set, then broke Roy again in the seventh and ran out the match.

PANCHO GONZALES

What can be said of Pancho Gonzalez, the graying but still roaring lion of tennis? Perhaps the way they introduced him at one of the Classic matches sums it all up. All the announcer said was "Ladies and Gentlemen – Mr. Tennis." A champion at Forest Hills in 1948, Gonzalez is today still a champion, with his sights set on the glory and the money of the $200,000 Tennis Champions Classic.



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ROD LAVER

Firmly in the all time record book of tennis, Rod Laver still seeks other worlds to conquer. Winner of the grand slam twice, first as an amateur in 1962, then in open competition in 1969, Laver already is rated as one of the greatest players of all time. His lovely wife Mary is, of course, his greatest fan.

KEN ROSENWALL

The smallest man in big time tennis, Ken Rosewall still can intimidate the biggest of them. Lacking the physique and brute strength of so many of his rivals, Ken makes the most of his 5-7, 150 pound frame by applying one of the best of all tactical games on the court. Those tactics carried him to the top of professionalism when Pancho Gonzalez went into one of his famed "retirements," driven there in part by Rosewall's tantalizing game. And Rosewall ruled the pros until the advent of Rod Laver.

THE $200,000 TENNIS CHAMPIONS

MONDAY, JUNE 1

TONY ROCHE vs TOM OKKER

Australia — **The Netherlands**

Qualifying Match

ROCHE					
OKKER					

$10,000 WINNER-TAKE-ALL

Classic Playoff

KEN ROSEWALL vs FRED STOLLE

Australia — **Australia**

ROSEWALL					
STOLLE					

Classic Summary

(Earlier match on pages 6 and 7.)

Fred Stolle vs Tom Okker

May 20, 1970 — **Los Angeles, Calif.**

Okker the winner, 6-3, 6-3, 2-6, 6-1

Tom Okker, fated to be called the Flying Dutchman, flew right past Stolle in a four set match that was easier than the score indicated. Stolle had trouble with his service throughout, and was guilty of 10 double faults.

Okker, serving soundly, broke Fred at love in the fourth game of the first set and clinched the second by breaking service in the seventh and ninth games.

Stolle played back to his fine form of the Emerson match only in the third set and his fans hoped he could yet salvage the match, but, after the intermission, Okker broke Stolle in the second game, won at love in the third, broke Fred again, and then held his own service at love for an insurmountable lead.

Money Won

The total money earnings of the nine men who have participated in the $200,000 Tennis Champions Classic, as of May 24:

Roy Emerson	$56,512
Pancho Gonzalez	$51,650
Rod Laver	$50,130
Tom Okker	$31,953
Fred Stolle	$27,433
Ken Rosewall	$23,615
John Newcombe	$21,739
Andres Gimeno	$18,955
Tony Roche	$18,309

In Classic competition, matches and money won:

	W	L	Money
Roy Emerson	3	1	$30,000
Pancho Gonzalez	2	1	$20,000
Fred Stolle	1	1	$10,000
Tom Okker	1	0	$10,000
Rod Laver	2	1	$10,000
Ken Rosewall	1	1	——
Tony Roche	0	1	——
Andres Gimeno	0	2	——
John Newcombe	0	2	——

CLASSIC PLAYOFF & SEMI-FINALS

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

$25,000 CLASSIC SEMI-FINAL

ROD LAVER vs PANCHO GONZALEZ

Australia **United States**

LAVER					
GONZALEZ					

$10,000 CLASSIC PLAYOFF

(Monday's Winners)

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

$25,000 CLASSIC SEMI-FINAL

ROY EMERSON vs Tuesday's Classic Playoff Winner

Australia

EMERSON					

How Sudden Death Works

In Classic competition, each match is best of five sets, but there is no chance for sets to drag out to 14-12 or beyond.

By agreement, when the score of any set reaches 5-all, the sudden death provision is in force. A 12-point game is played, with the players alternating service on each point.

First man to win seven points is declared the winner, awarded two games and the set at 7-5.

Should the point tally reach 6-all, the players continue until one player gains a two point margin.

The tie break system has added great drama to several Classic matches, and at the same time has benefited spectators by forestalling matches that could run for hours and hours.

The Qualifying Tests

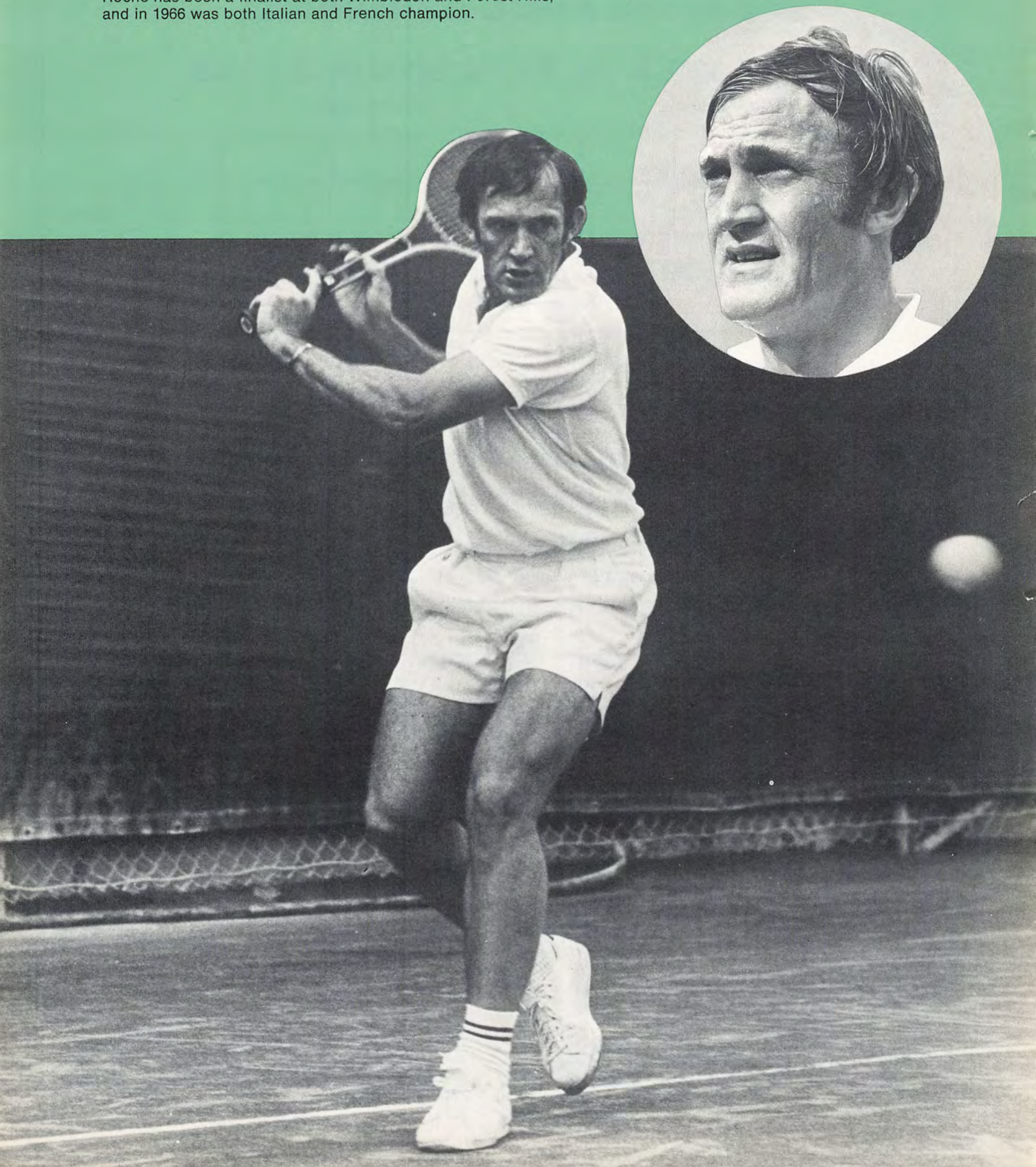
Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall, Andres Gimeno and John Newcombe got their second Classic chance on May 21, 22 and 23. Fred Stolle, winner of one Classic match, but a victim of Tom Okker in his second effort, was also seeking the way back. Tony Roche, the last of the players to go into action, had hoped a pair of victories in a three day span would bring him into the semifinals, but Okker was unable to play, so his second match in the competition was delayed until the Garden tests.

In qualifying, Laver defeated Gimeno and Roche. Rosewall defeated Newcombe. Laver's victories brought him into a semi against Gonzalez.

Rosewall now meets Stolle, and Roche gets his final chance against Okker. The survivor of the Rosewall-Newcombe-Roche-Okker battle gains the other semi-final bracket against Roy Emerson, who registered three Classic first round triumphs. Pancho Gonzalez had two.

TONY ROCHE

This rugged Australian is regarded by many experts as the next big man of the court. Winner of over $75,000 in 1969, Roche has been a finalist at both Wimbledon and Forest Hills, and in 1966 was both Italian and French champion.



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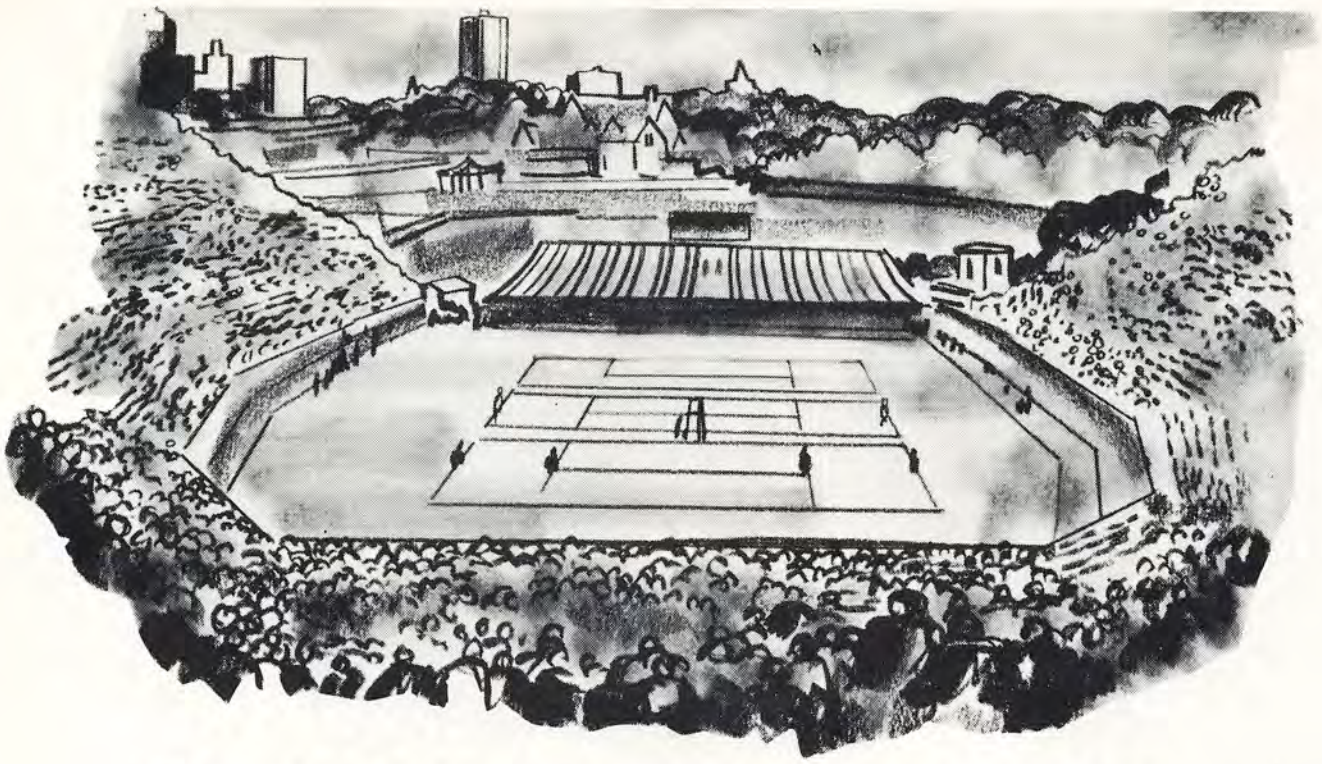
ROY EMERSON

Holder of the most impressive record ever posted in Australian amateur tennis, Roy Emerson is enjoying the best year of this, his third season in pro ranks. He won three Classic matches, defeating in order Pancho Gonzalez, Ken Rosewall and Andres Gimeno. He was the Wimbledon and French champion in 1964 and 1965, wore the Forest Hills crown in 1961 and 1964 and was the Australian ruler in 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967.



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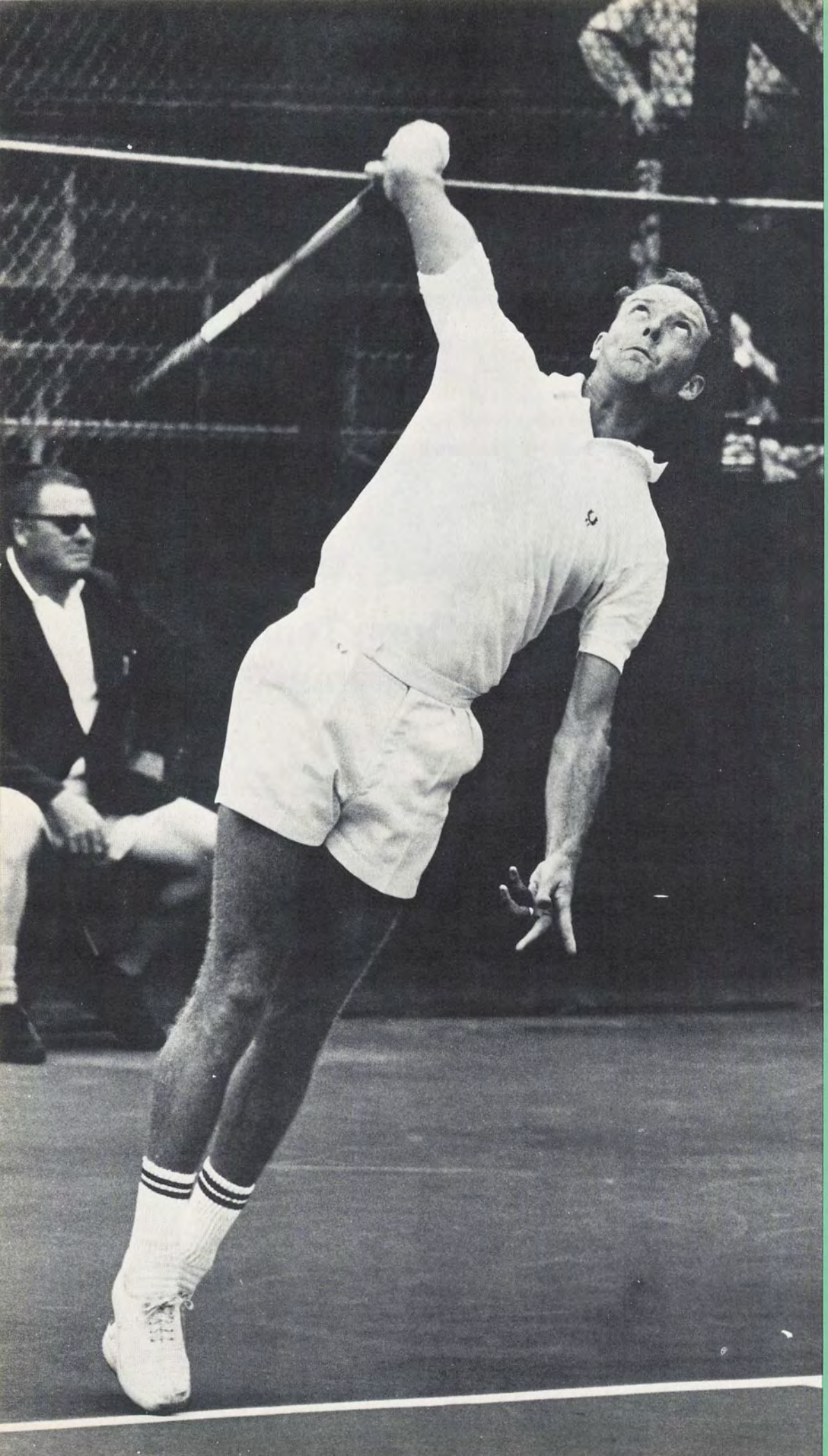
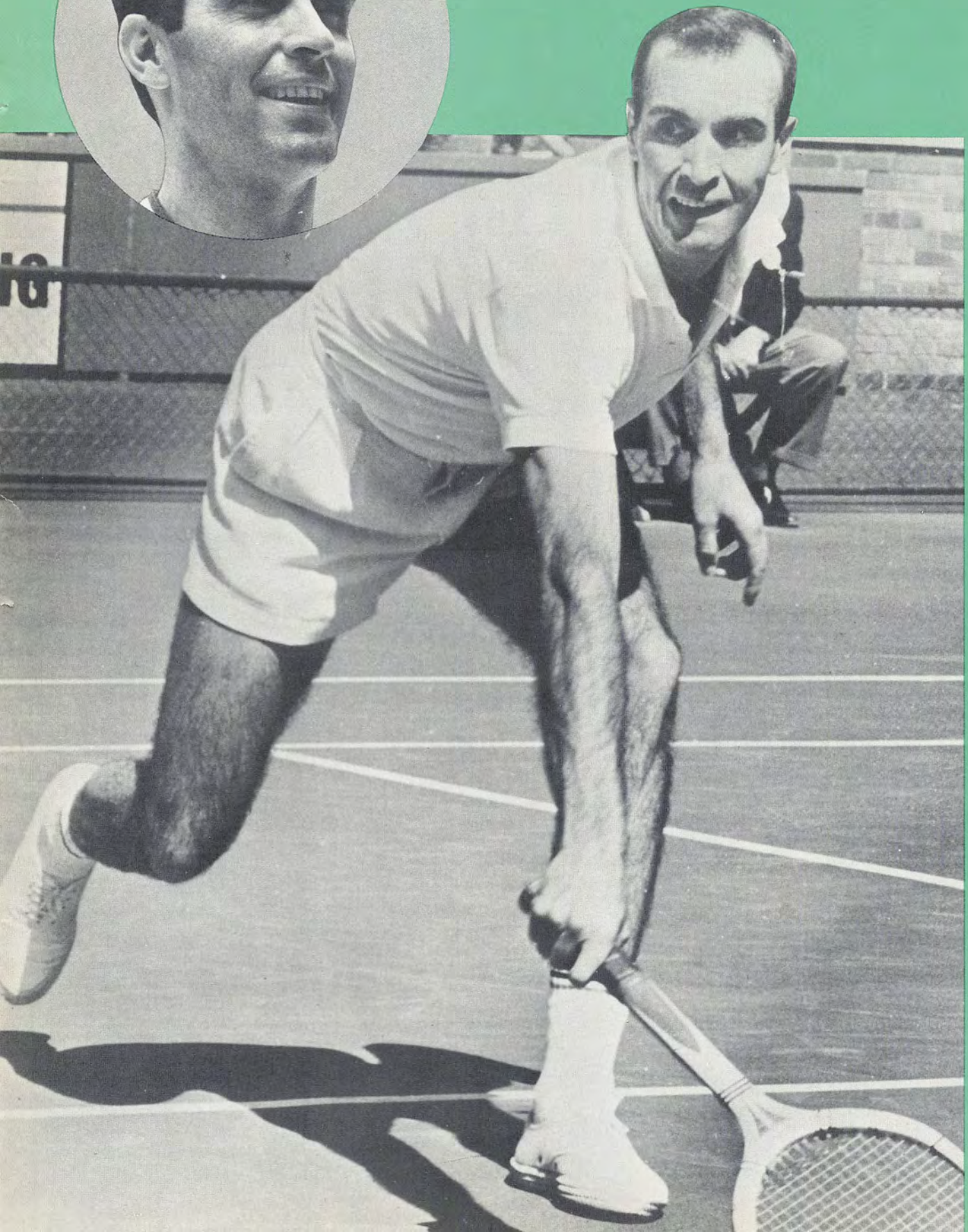


FRED STOLLE

One of the most dangerous of pro tennis players, Fred Stolle snapped Roy Emerson's string of three straight Classic wins. At 6-4 the tallest of the top players, Fred wavered between cricket and tennis when a youngster in Wahroongo, Australia. He decided on the court game, a decision which delighted Australian tennis fans. Stolle won the decisive five set match over Dennis Ralston in the Davis Cup Challenge Round in 1964, bringing the Cup back Down Under for a long time. His most stunning amateur victory was in 1966 when, unseeded, he swept to the title at Forest Hills.

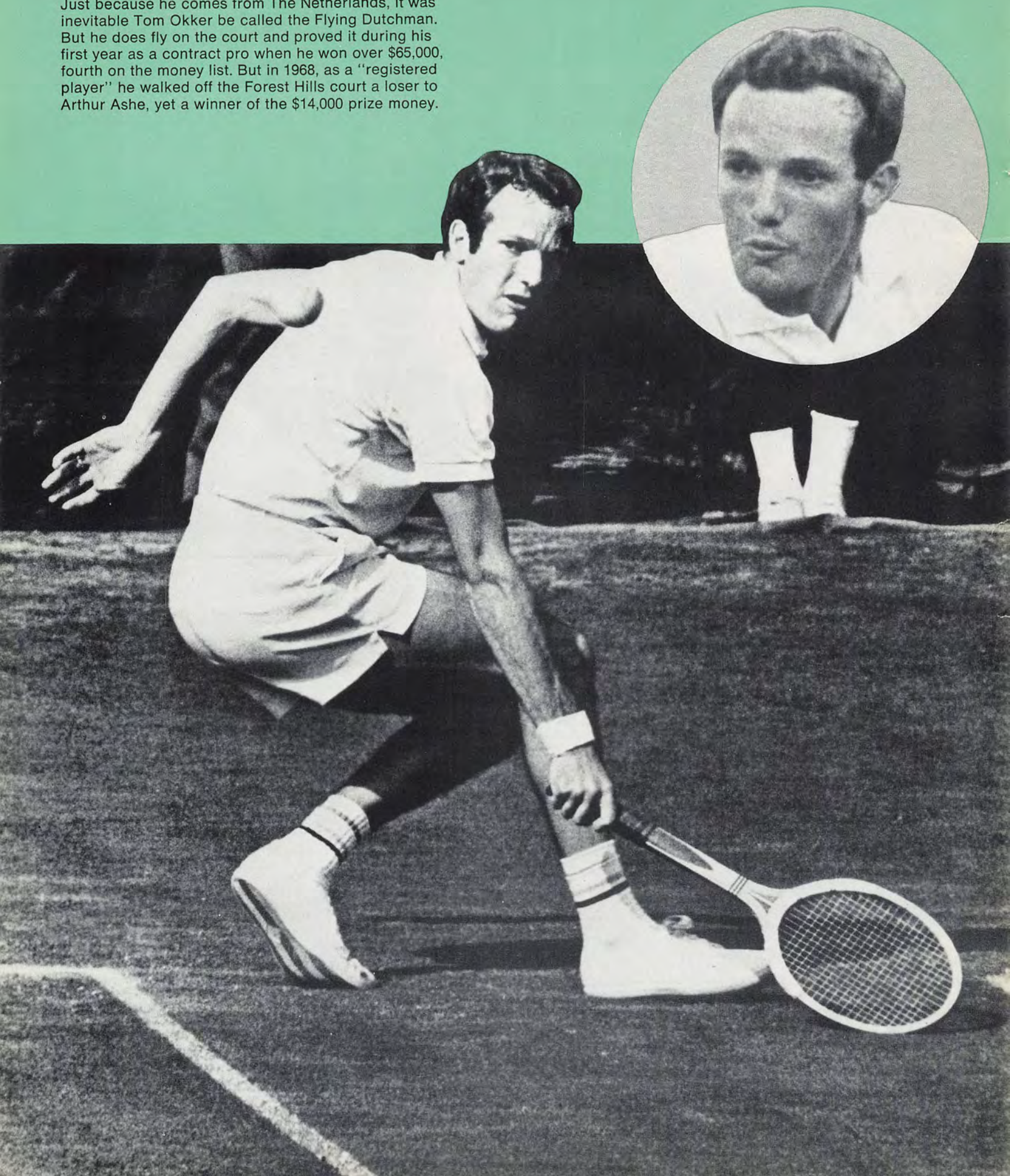
ANDRES GIMENO

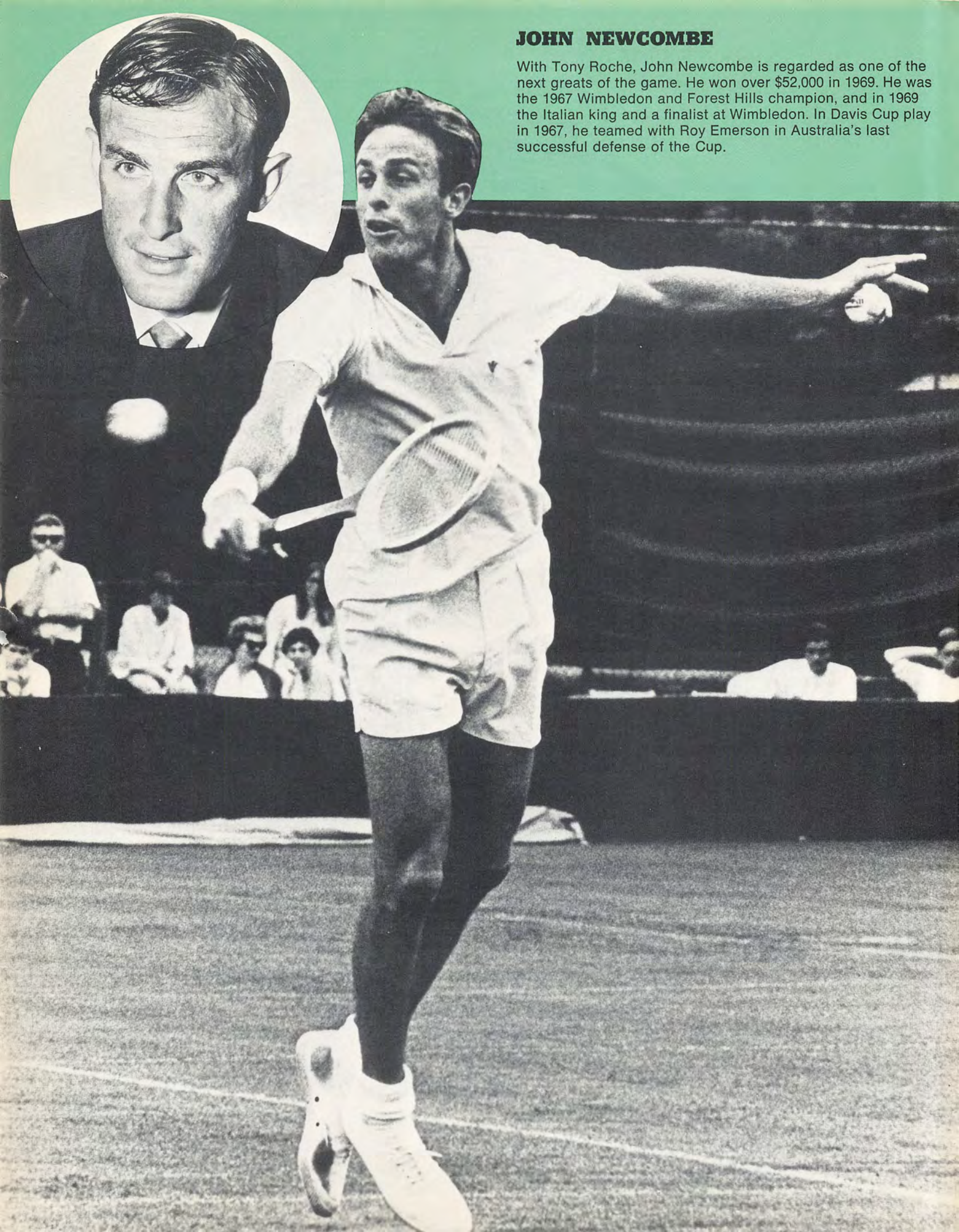
The graceful matador of the court, Andres Gimeno was the first great court star to emerge from Spain. A professional for a decade, Andres is always one of the most feared of opponents. He is no stranger to Garden crowds, for he defeated Arthur Ashe in the final of the Garden Challenge Open in 1969, a year in which he won over $35,000.



TOM OKKER

Just because he comes from The Netherlands, it was inevitable Tom Okker be called the Flying Dutchman. But he does fly on the court and proved it during his first year as a contract pro when he won over $65,000, fourth on the money list. But in 1968, as a "registered player" he walked off the Forest Hills court a loser to Arthur Ashe, yet a winner of the $14,000 prize money.

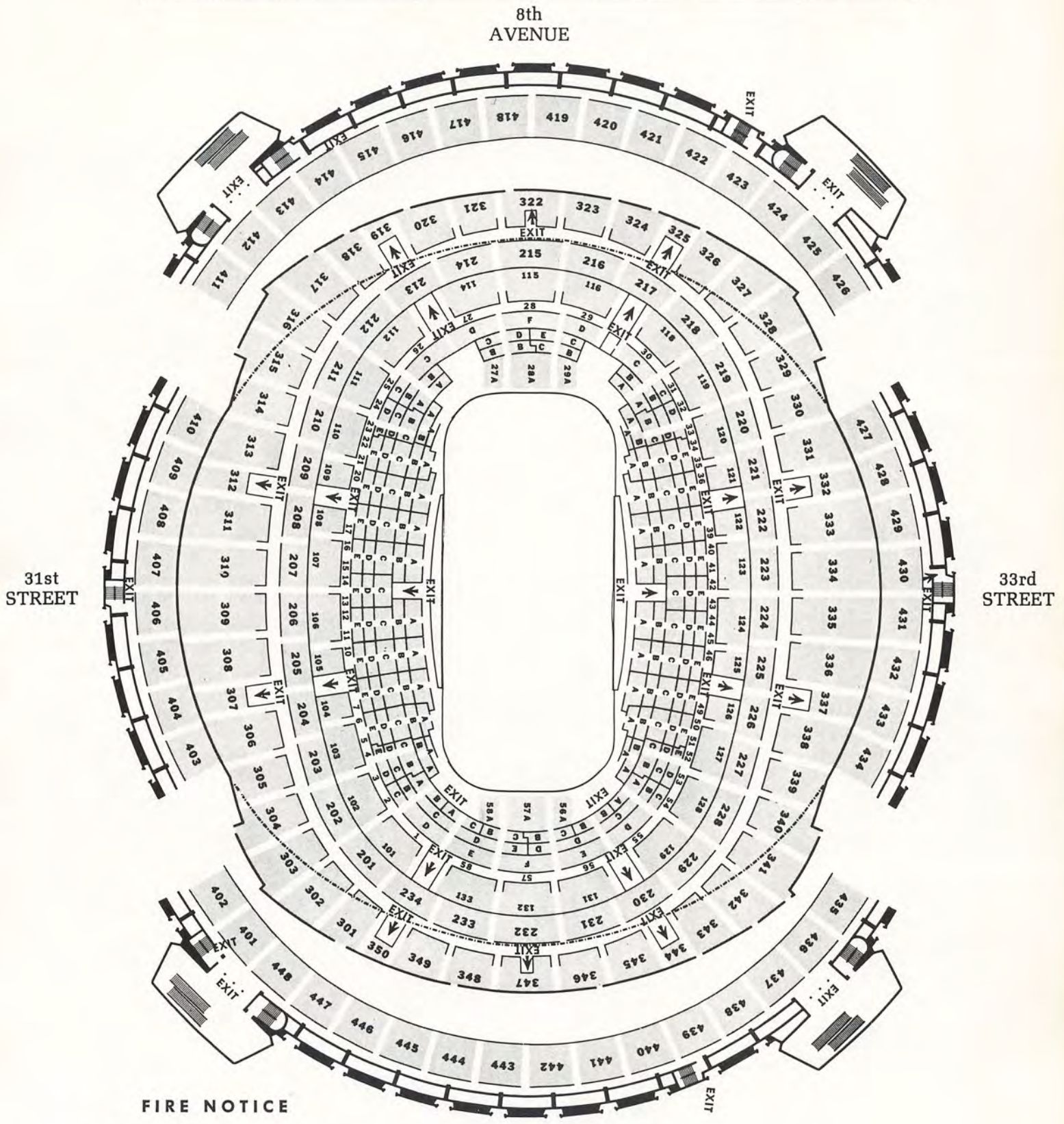




JOHN NEWCOMBE

With Tony Roche, John Newcombe is regarded as one of the next greats of the game. He won over $52,000 in 1969. He was the 1967 Wimbledon and Forest Hills champion, and in 1969 the Italian king and a finalist at Wimbledon. In Davis Cup play in 1967, he teamed with Roy Emerson in Australia's last successful defense of the Cup.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN • FIRE EXITS



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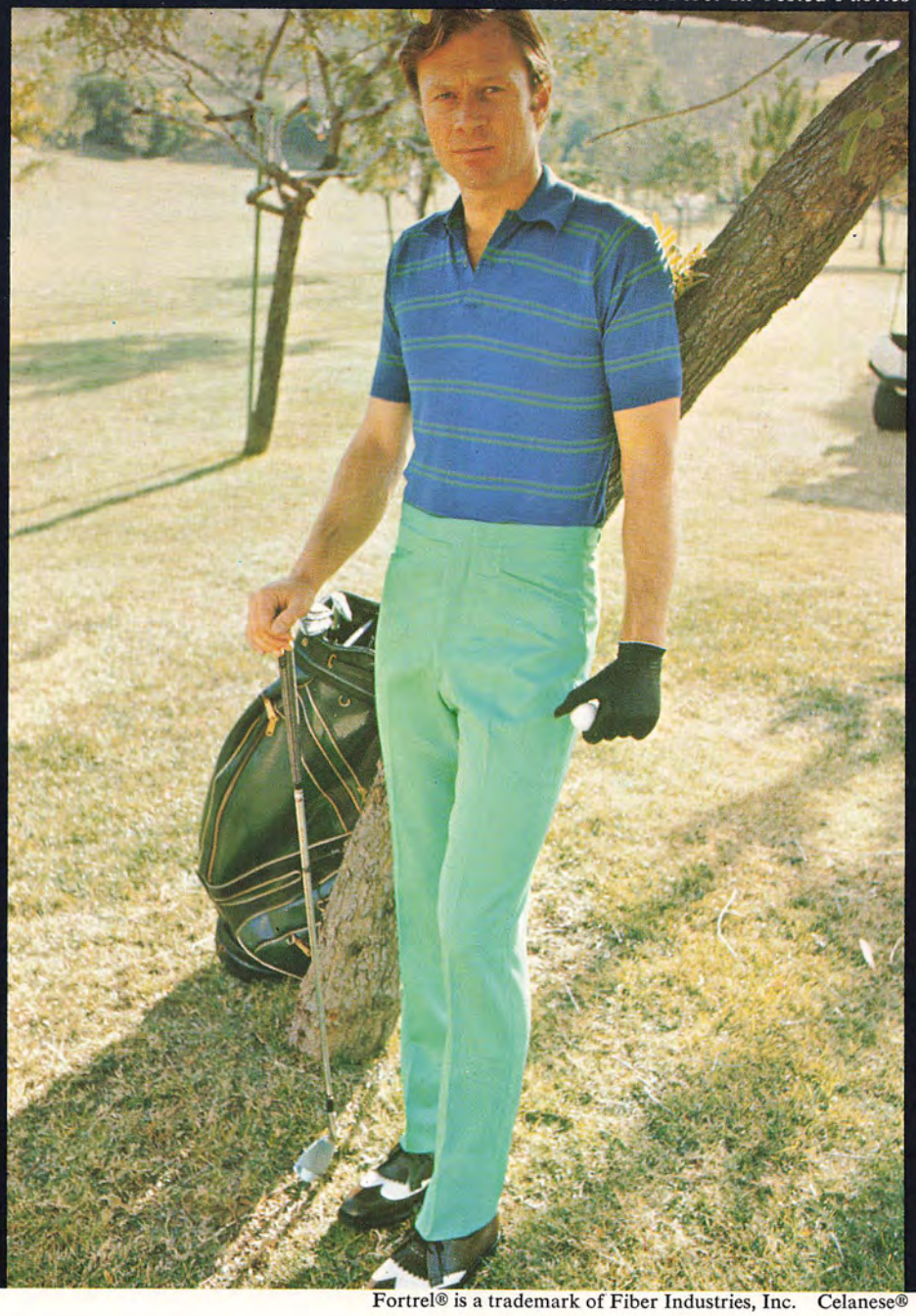

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